(e) whether the Union Government propose to provide more funds to the State during the next financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The Department of Tourism, Government of India, has agreed in principle to provide assistance for the following schemes for the year, 1996-97 :

S. No.	Name of the project	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Purchase of buses	4.00
2.	Tourist Complex at Vikramshila	30.00
3.	Wayside facility between Neterhart and Ranchi	35.00
	Total	69.00

[English]

Cutting of Optical Fibre Cable in Kanpur

2482. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to cutting of optical fibre cables at Sirsagunj, Kanpur on May 18, 1996 the contact of Kanpur with other cities of the country came to an halt;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted to find out the causes of defect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made to stop such occurance in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. There was no such case of Kanpur city being cut off from the rest of the country on 18.5.96 due to cutting of Optical Fibre Cable. However, the OFC link between Agra-Kanpur failed on 16.5.96 due to damage caused to OFC by a PWD party near Sirsaging and restored at 00.45 hours on 17.5.96. However, this interruption did not cause loss of contact of Kanpur from other cities in the country.

(d) A new OFC route between Agra and Kanpur is likely to be commissioned as an alternate route.

Assistance to Religious Minorities

2483. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of religious minorities would receive assistance from the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation if the annual family income is below the poverty line as defined by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was set up on September 30, 1994 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 with the objective of providing financial assistance to these backward sections among minorities whose annual family income is below double the poverty line i.e. Rs. 22,000/- per annum.

(b) The Corporation envisages extending low interest credit to set up self-employment units to those sections of minorities who are economically disadvantaged and not in a position to get credit from other financial institutions.

[Translation]

Management Committee of Super Bazar

2484. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the members nominated in the Management Committee of the Super Bazar, Central Government Cooperative Store and other such stores functioning in New Delhi as on date;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant therein;

(c) the details of the recommendations received by the Government for the nomination of such members during the last three years; and

(d) the norms adopted for the nomination of such members?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) As per the provisions contained in the bye-laws of both the Super Bazar, Delhi and the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society, Delhi (Kendriya Bhandar), nine members including the Chairman are nominated on their Boards of Directors by the Government of India. The names of the nominated members in respect of the two Societies are given in the attached Statement. Government of India do not nominate any members in the Managing Committee of any other store functioning in New Delhi.

(b) There is one vacancy of nominated Director in each of the above-mentioned two Stores.

(c) In respect of Super Bazar, Delhi, during the last three years, nine requests were received of which only one was recommended. The recommended candidate was nominated on the Board of Directors of Super Bazar, Delhi.

(d) In case of Central Government Employees Co-operative Society, all the nominated Directors are senior Government Officers in their ex-officio capacity. In Super